

C2 On-the-Move Network Digital Over-the-Horizon Relay (CONDOR) Capability Set

Operation Iraqi Freedom highlighted the need for improved on-the-move and beyond-line-of-sight data capabilities for maneuver units. The C2 On-the-Move Network Digital Over-the-Horizon Relay (CONDOR) Capability Set provides these capabilities throughout the Marine Air-Ground Task Force MAGTF. It enables the use of command and control applications and tactical data radios to feed the Common Operational Picture (COP), while on-the-move and over-the-horizon. Building the COP increases situational awareness of friendly units and disseminates intelligence products on enemy locations, significantly enhancing the information available for the leader's decision cycle.

The CONDOR Capability Set bridges the gap between today's radio inventory and the future Transformational Communication Architecture (TCA). CONDOR's fundamental premise is to make the tactical network accessible to the warfighter, using organic Marine Corps assets. This architectural approach is based on open standards that provide encrypted connectivity to the forward edge of the battlefield, which will readily accept Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) terminals as they are fielded.

The CONDOR Capability Set will consist of the following three variants:

CONDOR Gateway, CONDOR Point-of-Presence Vehicle (PoP-V), and CONDOR Jump Command and Control Vehicle (JC2-V). The CONDOR Gateway connects areas limited to line-of-sight communications, using the Enhanced Position Location Radio System, and extends their coverage beyond the line-of-sight. The CONDOR PoP-V provides units with legacy radios the ability to connect to the tactical data network. The CONDOR JC2-V provides a mobile command post capability with data communications during displacements. This JC2-V variant provides on-the-move situational awareness by maintaining the network connectivity of C2 applications.

CONDOR is an ACAT III program. The draft AAO is for 425 Gateways. The CONDOR Gateway has been developed and demonstrated using the Office of Naval Research, Family of Interoperable Operational Pictures (FIOP), and the USMC RDT&E funds. The CONDOR Gateway is scheduled for MSC during 1st QTR FY06. IOC is scheduled for FY07; FOC is scheduled for FY11. The CONDOR capability set will provide the on-the-move and over-the-horizon capability that will prepare the Marine Corps for the transition to a net centric force.